

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03054 101359Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 /088 W  
-----072722 110238Z /15

R 101105Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN  
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3054

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, OAU, CN, SU  
SUBJECT: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, DAY II: COMORO ISLANDS  
DELEGATION EXPELLED

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 3043 (B) KHARTOUM 3046

SUMMARY: IN POLITICAL DECISION WHICH COULD AFFECT LEGALITY  
OF FUTURE DELEGATIONS TO OAU MEETINGS, 31ST COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS (COM) HAS EXPelled DELEGATION FROM COMORO ISLANDS.  
WHILE DECISION WAS QUICKLY APPROVED BY COM, ISSUE MAY ARISE  
AGAIN DURING ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (AHG  
OR SUMMIT) BECAUSE OF QUESTIONABLE PROCEDURES USED TO EXPEL  
DELEGATION. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 03054 101359Z

1. FOLLOWING DIFFICULT MORNING SESSION (REF A) COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS (COM) FINALLY RESUMED NORMAL AGENDA SCHEDULE IN  
EVENING. AFTER DECIDING UPON BREAU OF COM (REF B),  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (PROB) FONMIN REQUESTED THAT  
COMORO ISLANDS DELEGATION BE EXPelled ON GROUNDS THAT IT  
WAS BROUGHT TO POWER BY "NOTORIOUS BOB DENARD GANG."  
MAIL SECONDED PROB REQUEST. SUPPORT CAME FROM GUINEA,

ALGERIA, LIBYA (ADDING CALL FOR CONDEMNATION OF DENARD AND "ESPECIALLY THOSE BEHIND HIM") AND NIGERIA, WHICH REQUESTED THAT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY BY COM TO SCRUTINIZE ANY OTHER QUESTIONABLE CREDENTIALS.

2. WHILE NO MEMBERS ACTUALLY OPPOSED EXPULSION OF COMORO DELEGATION, SOME MEMBERS DID ENTER "RESERVATIONS" BECAUSE OF SUMMARY NATURE OF COM DECISION AND ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW COMORO DELEGATION TO SPEAK. IVORY COAST, MAURITANIA AND MAURITIUS TOOK POSITION THAT COMORO DELEGATION SHOULD AT LEAST BE ALLOWED TO EXPLAIN ITSELF, AND HAD COM NOTE THEIR RESERVATIONS. CENTRAL AFRICA EMPIRE, CHAD, SENEGAL AND TUNISIA WANTED IT RECORDED BY COM THAT THEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE. ZAIRE ABSTAINED. ASG ONU CHARACTERIZED COM DECISION AS UNANIMOUS EVEN THOUGH PERHAPS AS MANY AS 20 MEMBERS EXPRESSED PROCEDURAL RESERVATIONS. SUDAN AS CHAIRMAN OF COM ASKED COMORO DELEGATION TO LEAVE COM AND IT DID.

3. OFFICIAL OAU SPOKESMAN FOR COM, DR. PETER ONU, EXPLAINED THAT EXPULSION OF COMORO DELEGATION WAS NOT AN OAU PRECEDENT, AS FEARED BY TWO DELEGATIONS. ONU ASSERTED THAT OAU REJECTION OF TSHOMBE (Zaire) CREDENTIALS IN 1964 AND OBOTE (UGANDA) CREDENTIALS IN 1971 WERE PARALLEL CASES. ONU FURTHER SAID THAT EXPULSION OF COMORO DELEGATION WAS ONLY FOR KHARTOUM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 03054 101359Z

MEETINGS AND THAT COMORO ISLANDS WOULD REMAIN MEMBER OF OAU.

4. COMMENT: OAU DECISION HAS CAUSED ONLY MILD SURPRISE AND DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DISTURBED CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS INITIALLY. NIGERIAN REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE VIEWED AS PROPER AND NECESSARY AND COULD SET PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE OAU MEETINGS. COM ACCEPTED AS FACT THAT "NOTORIOUS" MERCENARY BOB DENARD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT (MAY 1978) COUP IN COMOROS AND FOR THIS REASON ACHIEVED SUPERFICIAL UNANIMITY IN EXPELLING DELEGATION, DESPITE "RADICAL" SPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTION.

5. OAU HAS TAKEN POLITICAL DECISION RATHER THAN LEGAL ONE IN EXPELLING COMORO DELEGATION AND MAY FIND ITSELF IN DIFFICULT POSITION IN FUTURE TO DETERMINE IN LEGAL TERMS, WHAT IS ACCEPTABLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT IN AFRICAN CONTEXT. IT APPEARS NOTORIETY OF DENARD AND HIS ROLE IN COMOROS COUP ARE REASON FOR OAU EXPULSION OF DELEGATION, BUT ISSUE MAY ARISE AGAIN DURING HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT (AHG).

6. MAURITANIAN FONMIN MOUKNASS SAID THAT SENEGAL WAS PREPARING CASE FOR PRESENTATION TO AHG WHICH COULD HAVE

DEGREE OF MODERATE SUPPORT. MOUKNASS CLAIMED THAT  
MODERATES WERE NOT PREPARED FOR EXPULSION OF COMORO  
DELEGATION AND FELT AT A LOSS WHEN COMOROS DID NOT SPEAK  
UP TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO MOUKNASS, THIS  
MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR MODERATES TO DEFEND POLITICALLY  
EMBARRASSING COMOROS, IN SPITE OF FACT DELEGATION REPRE-  
SENTS ONLY GOVERNMENT OF ISLANDS.

BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KHARTO03054  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780282-1004  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780780/aaaacpid.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** df85e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 KHARTOUM 3043, 78 KHARTOUM 3046  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2071780  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, DAY II: COMORO ISLANDS DELEGATION EXPELLED  
**TAGS:** PORG, CN, SU, OAU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/df85e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014